

What is claimed is:

- 1/ A filter device for processing a biological fluid comprising:

a housing having an inlet and an outlet and defining a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet;

a filter disposed in the housing across the fluid flow path, the filter comprising:

a first filter element comprising a porous fibrous leukocyte depletion medium having a CWST of at least about 70 dynes/cm; and

a second filter element comprising a porous membrane having a pore size of about 5 micrometers or less, said second filter element being disposed downstream of the first filter element;

wherein the filter is arranged to allow plasma to pass therethrough and substantially prevent the passage of leukocytes therethrough.

2. A filter device for processing a biological fluid comprising:

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    a housing having an inlet and an outlet and defining a
    fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet;

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a filter disposed in the housing across the fluid flow path, the filter comprising:

a first filter element comprising a porous fibrous red cell barrier and leukocyte depletion medium having a CWST of at least about 70 dynes/cm; and

a second filter element comprising a porous membrane having a pore size of about 5 micrometers or less, said second filter element being disposed downstream of the first filter element;

wherein the filter is arranged to allow plasma to pass therethrough and substantially prevent the passage of leukocytes therethrough.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the first filter element comprises a red cell barrier medium.

4. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the first filter element comprises melt-blown fibers.
5. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the first filter element comprises at least two layers.
6. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the first filter element has a CWST of at least about 90 dynes/cm.
7. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the filter includes no more than one membrane.
8. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the filter is arranged to substantially prevent the passage of red blood cells therethrough.
9. A system for processing a biological fluid comprising:
the device of any of claims 1-8;
at least a first container and a second container, the first and second containers being suitable for use with biological fluid, wherein the device is interposed between the first and second containers.
10. A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:
passing a leukocyte-containing plasma-rich biological fluid through a filter device comprising a filter including a fibrous leukocyte depletion medium and a membrane; and
collecting a filtered plasma-rich biological fluid substantially free of leukocytes.
11. A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:
passing a leukocyte-containing plasma-rich biological fluid through a filter device comprising a filter including a fibrous red blood cell barrier medium and a membrane; and
collecting a filtered plasma-rich biological fluid

substantially free of leukocytes.

5 12. A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:
processing a biological fluid to provide a supernatant
layer comprising a leukocyte-containing plasma-rich fluid,
and a sediment layer comprising a red blood cell-containing
fluid;

10 passing the leukocyte-containing plasma-rich fluid
through a filter device comprising a filter including a
fibrous leukocyte depletion medium and a membrane; and
collecting a filtered plasma-rich fluid substantially
free of red blood cells and leukocytes.

15 13. The method of any of the preceding claims wherein the
leukocyte-containing plasma-rich fluid comprises a leukocyte-
and platelet-depleted biological fluid.

20 14. A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:
depleting leukocytes and platelets from a red blood
cell-containing biological fluid to provide a leukocyte- and
platelet-depleted red blood cell-containing biological fluid;
processing the leukocyte- and platelet-depleted red
blood cell-containing biological fluid to provide a
supernatant layer comprising plasma and a sediment layer
25 comprising red blood cells;

30 passing the supernatant layer through a filter device,
wherein the filter device further depletes leukocytes from
the supernatant layer and substantially prevents the passage
of red blood cells therethrough; and
collecting plasma-rich fluid in a container downstream
of the filter device, wherein the plasma-rich fluid is
substantially free of red blood cells and leukocytes.

35 15. A method for producing a substantially blood cell-free
biological fluid comprising:
passing a biological fluid through the filter device of
any of claims 1-8, and collecting the filtered substantially

blood cell-free biological fluid.

16. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein
collecting the filtered plasma-rich biological fluid
5 comprises passing leukocyte-containing plasma-rich biological
fluid through the filter device and collecting the filtered
plasma-rich biological fluid substantially free of red blood
cells and leukocytes.

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